

BOROUGH OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health;

FOR THE YEAR

✂ 1925. ✂

BY

JOHN WM. TALENT, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

— AND —

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

TO THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.



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TO THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS,
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE,

April, 1926.

To the Mayor and Council of the
Municipal Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the health of the Borough and on the work of the Public Health Department, for the year 1925.

This is a "Survey," or full and detailed Report, which is only made once in every five years.

It is carried out in accordance with the instructions of Circular 540 of the Ministry of Health.

The public health during the year has been satisfactory.

I am glad to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Morris and each member of the Staff, for their excellent work and support during the year.

I am,

Yours obediently,

JOHN WILLIAM TALENT.

Survey Report.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres)	1,345
Population (Census 1921)	44,200
Population (estimated 1925).....	43,910

Physical features and general character of the area :—

The Borough is bounded on the north by the Urban District of Hurst and the Rural District of Limehurst, on the south by the River Tame, on the east by Hurst and Stalybridge, on the west by the Urban Districts of Droylsden and Audenshaw. The district varies in height from about 300 feet above sea level to about 520 feet.

Coal measures, covered with drift in varying degrees, underlie most of the district.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	10,436
Rateable Value	£235,578
Sum represented by a penny rate	£900

The chief industries are cotton spinning and manufacturing, machine making, iron and brass founding, brewing and coal mining.

Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.
Births in 1925 ...	748	385	363
Deaths in 1925 ...	649	332	317

Per 1,000 of Population :—

		Birth- rate.	Death rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 5 years					
1895-1899	...	27·8	21·0	1·85	208
1900-1904	...	26·6	19·0	1·45	175
1905-1909	...	25·8	18·1	1·41	166
1910-1914	...	23·2	17·2	1·30	163
1915-1919	...	17·8	17·7	1·39	125
1920-1924	...	20·4	14·0	0·88	95
Year 1924.....	...	17·6	13·2	0·68	77
1925.....	...	17·0	*14·7	0·97	92

*Increase or Decrease
in 1925 on—*

Mean of 5 years,					
1920-1924...	—	3·4	+ 0·7	+ 0·09	— 3
Previous Year...	—	0·6	+ 1·5	+ 0·29	— 15

*Standardizing Factor 0·986.

Corrected Death Rate = 14·5 per 1,000.

Amount of Poor Law relief administered in the
Township of Ashton during the year ended
December 31st, 1925..... £8,434

Persons admitted to Lake Hospital and Darnton House
from the Township of Ashton during the year ended December
31st, 1925 :—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Lake Hospital.....	264	195	83	542
Darnton House ...	269	102	45	416
	—	—	—	—
	533	297	128	958
	—	—	—	—

Causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially
noteworthy :—

(a) SMALLPOX, of which an epidemic occurred during five months of the winter 1924—1925.

(b) MEASLES, in 1922, 1924, and 1925.

(c) SCARLET FEVER, which occurred to a slight extent during the whole period, never approaching any considerable number of cases.

(d) WHOOPING COUGH in 1922, 1923, and 1925.

(e) INFLUENZA, in 1922, 1923, 1924, and 1925. It never attained any degree of virulency.

(f) CHICKENPOX, in 1921, 1922, 1924 and 1925.

(g) MUMPS in 1921 and 1924.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council :—

(1) *Tuberculosis.* Patients resident in the town, who are suffering from Tuberculosis, are sent away when necessary for the treatment to Sanatoria, Pulmonary Hospitals, General Hospitals and Sanatoria for non-pulmonary cases, under the control of the County Authority.

(2.) *Maternity.* Arrangements have been made by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee with the Guardians of the Poor, for the use of four beds in one of the Maternity Wards at the Lake Hospital, for the normal confinement of mothers who cannot obtain the requisite attention or accommodation in their own homes. These patients are admitted on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health and do not apply to the Relieving Officer. The Local Authority pays the full cost of maintenance and recovers such sums as the patients can afford to pay.

During the year 14 patients were confined at this hospital, in each case with satisfactory results.

A similar arrangement was also made with the District Infirmary for the treatment of complicated cases of labour. In this Institution a special ward has been set apart for the purpose ; three patients have been treated, all making a good recovery.

For cases of Puerperal Fever requiring hospital treatment an agreement was made with the Corporation of Manchester to receive and treat any such cases at their Isolation Hospital at Monsall. It was not found necessary to send any such case during the year.

(3.) *Children.* The District Infirmary makes provision for the treatment of children. The Local Authority makes an annual grant to this Institution of £210.

(4.) *Fever.*

Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases other than Smallpox.

This Hospital is situated within the Borough on a site adjoining the Workhouse grounds. The site is about four acres in extent, but only about a quarter of the whole area has been enclosed for the actual site of the Hospital buildings by means of a wooden fence seven feet in height. The Hospital buildings comprise :—

(1.) A cottage house used as an administrative block affords accommodation for entrance hall, Matron's sitting room, Nurse's sitting room, kitchen, scullery, pantry, Matron's bedroom and one Nurse's bedroom with bath and water closet. This building is situated close to the entrance to the site.

(2.) A separate corrugated iron block divided into six cubicles for Nurses' sleeping quarters, also a lavatory and water closet.

(3.) A wooden pavilion on brick foundations. This comprises Nurse's duty room, storeroom, dispensary and two Wards. Warming is provided by low-pressure water-pipes.

The building is match-boarded internally. There is an annex to each ward for water-closet, bath and lavatory in each instance.

(4.) A brick disinfecting house.

(5.) A brick mortuary situate near the boundary fence.

(6-7) Two store sheds. The whole of these buildings are connected to the town's sewage system.

During the year 72 Scarlet Fever patients were treated. There was one death. It was not possible to treat cases of other infectious diseases, owing to the fact that the accommodation is limited to one ward for males and one for females.

SCARLET FEVER CASES TREATED IN THE BOROUGH
HOSPITAL DURING THE YEAR 1925.

	Ashton Cases.	Outside Cases.	Total.
Remaining in Hospital, 1st January, 1925	8	1	9
Admitted during the year	57	8	65
Discharged during the year	56	8	64
Died during the year	0	0	0
Remaining in Hospital, 1st January, 1926	6	1	7

Districts from which Outside Cases were received :—

Stalybridge.....	3
Waterloo	2
Hurst	3

Isolation Hospital for Smallpox.

For the purpose of isolation of Small-pox Ashton-under-Lyne is in combination with the Urban Districts of Stalybridge, Hurst and Audenshaw and the Rural District of Limehurst. The Joint Small-pox Hospital District was constituted by the Board, by Provisional Order, confirmed by the Local Government Boards Provisional Orders Confirmation Act (12), 1904. The site of forty acres, situated on the hillside at Hartshead, in the Rural District of Limehurst is three miles distant from the Town Hall, Ashton.

The Hospital comprises :—

1. An old farmhouse converted into an administrative block and a caretaker's cottage. The former contains kitchen, large scullery, sitting-room, storeroom, Nurse's dining-room, Matron's bedroom, bathroom and water-closet, and three attic bedrooms. The caretaker's cottage has scullery and bedroom.

2. Two outbuildings re-constructed so as to afford the following accommodation :—Convalescent's day room, Nurse's day room, kitchen, dispensary, store-room, water-closets, two bathrooms, disinfecting rooms, with a Threshers' Disinfecter built in between them, wash-house and ironing rooms and stores, two bedrooms for convalescents.

3. A corrugated iron building containing two wards with an annex for water-closets and sinks, kitchen and bathroom.

4. A good stone Mortuary building with two slate slabs. Coal and coke stores are provided. A motor ambulance and van for removing patients and infected bedding and clothing are kept in the Town's Yard.

The water supply is derived from a concrete reservoir situated in the upper part of the grounds. It is capable of storing 100,000 gallons ; in addition to this are two tanks, with a joint capacity of 25,000 gallons. The water has been analysed at intervals and reported on each occasion to be pure. The surrounding ground is grassland and is not cultivated. The

drainage water and sewage are conveyed to a brickwork settling tank and to a small septic tank, from which the effluent passes on to two small filters.

Other Hospitals.

The Poor Law Guardians possess a hospital, the Lake Hospital, which provides 300 beds. Four of these are retained by the Local Authority for maternity cases.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children, excepting such as may be made by the Guardians of the Poor.

Ambulance Facilities :—

- (a) For infectious cases, a motor ambulance.
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases, three motor ambulances.

Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

1. Enville House, Scotland Street, is a large dwelling-house, which has been adapted for the purpose of consultation. It is leased by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

2. Richmond House, Richmond Street. This large dwellinghouse was purchased by the Council, and is similarly used for Consultations.

School Clinic :—

Water Street. Is held in roomy and convenient premises belonging to the Council.

Tuberculosis Dispensary :—

Warrington Street. Is under the control of the County Authority.

Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases :—

This is held at the District Infirmary. It is under the control of the County Authority.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

J. W. Talent, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. C. Morris, Chief Inspector.

C. Sharples, Assistant Inspector.

J. Hardman, Drain Inspector.

T. Bickerton, Disinfecter.

Mrs. S. Wolfenden, S.R.N., C.M.B., Infant Welfare Supt.

Mrs. Parkinson, S.R.N., C.M.B., General Trained Nurse,
Health Visitor.

Miss H. W. Phillips, S.R.N., General and Children's
Trained Nurse, C.M.B., Cert. Royal Sanitary
Institute, for Health Visiting. Health Visitor.

Miss H. E. Hollis, General Trained Nurse,
Matron of Fever Hospital.

Miss J. N. Mason, Fever Trained Nurse.

Two Probationer Nurses.

All the above are full-time Officials. A contribution is made to the salary of the Medical Officer of Health, Infant Welfare Superintendent, and two Health Visitors.

J. Hall, M.R.C.V.S., Meat Inspector. Part time Official.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) *General.* The District Nursing Association provides three Nurses for general nursing.

An arrangement has been made between the Health Committee and this Association by which the latter undertake to nurse all notified cases of Pneumonia requiring such service, and the Health Committee to make an annual subscription of £50 to their funds.

During the year 99 cases of Pneumonia have been attended.

(b) *For Infectious Diseases.* There is no special provision for these. During epidemic periods the parents of each case are visited in their homes and advice is given by the Health Visitors.

Midwives:—

There are 17 Midwives practising in the Borough. These are under the control of the County Authority. The following list is supplied by that Authority:—

LIST OF MIDWIVES PRACTISING IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE,

On the 31st December, 1925.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Ellen Lyons (Mrs), 11, Duncan Street, Charlestown, | Bona-fide. |
| 2. B. J. Egerton (Mrs.), Ashford House, Stamford Street, | C.M.B. |
| 3. Louisa Jones (Miss), 43, Arundel Street, Cockbrook, | C.M.B. |
| 4. E. A. Wrigley (Mrs.), 8, Albemarle Street, | C.M.B. |
| 5. S. A. Morgan (Mrs.), 79, Fitzroy Street, | C.M.B. |
| 6. F. Mareroft (Mrs), 10, Chester Square, | C.M.B. |
| 7. Adeline Sprigg (Mrs.), 6, Hawk Street, off Stamford-St., | Bona-fide. |
| 8. Ellen Kay (Mrs.), 23, Henrietta Street, | C.M.B. |
| 9. I. B. Wolfenden (Mrs.), 134, Whiteacre Road, | C.M.B. |
| 10. A. E. Ibbotson (Mrs.), 41, Alexandra Street, | C.M.B. |
| 11. E. E. Gill, 11, Arundel Street, | C.M.B. |
| 12. Emily Price (Mrs.), 69, Stalybridge Road, | L.O.S. |
| 13. Margaret A. Baxter, "Ash Lynne," Welbeck Avenue, | C.M.B. |
| 14. R. Whitfield, 22, Minto Street, | C.M.B. |
| 15. Annie Gould, 2, Layard Street, | C.M.B. |
| 16. Letty Wood (Mrs.), 92, Pottinger Street, | C.M.B. |
| 17. E. M. Coffey (Mrs.), 25, Bowman Crescent, | |
| | off Mossley road, C.M.B. |

Chemical Work.

Arrangements have been made for any chemical work to be undertaken by Mr. Melling, Public Analyst. No specimens were sent during the year. Reports upon Food and Drugs appear under the heading Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Legislation in Force.

General Adoptive Acts :—

- (a) The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. (except Part V. thereof
(b) The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. { Sections 50 and 51.
(c) The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.
(d) The Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Local Acts :—

Ashton-under-Lyne Improvement Act,	1849
„ „	1877
„ „	1886
„ Corporation Act,	1893
„ „	1924

Bye-Laws :—

With respect to houses let in lodgings,	adopted 1906
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops,	adopted 1899
Slaughter-Houses	adopted 1910
Employment of Children	adopted 1903
Common Lodging.Houses ..	adopted 1898

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The water which supplies the area of Ashton and Hurst is derived from upland gathering grounds of rough moorland on the millstone grit formation, situated on the valleys of the Swineshaw brook and the Greenfield brook in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The area of the gathering ground on the Swineshaw brook is 1,300 acres, lying between the altitudes of 588 and 1,600 feet above O.D. There are four impounding reservoirs supplied from this gathering ground, three of which are utilised solely for domestic consumption, and the fourth for compensation and domestic when necessary.

The total storage capacity of the three domestic reservoirs is 276,573,000 gallons; the fourth reservoir holds 202,084,000 gallons, so the total storage capacity in the valley is 478,657,000 gallons.

In the Greenfield valley the acreage of the gathering ground is 1,170 acres, lying between the altitudes of 758 and 1,600 feet above O.D. There are two reservoirs used solely for domestic purposes on the Greenfield brook supplied from this gathering ground, the total capacity being 307,282,000 gallons. In addition there is another reservoir for compensation purposes, constructed on the Chow brook an altitude of 1,600 feet above O.D., and supplied by a gathering ground of 830 acres. The total capacity of this reservoir being 206 000,000 gallons.

All the domestic water supplied from the five reservoirs is filtered by mechanical filtration and is afterwards distributed partly direct to consumption and partly to a service reservoir at Knott Hill, from which the Ashton supply is taken.

The Knott Hill reservoir, which is situate some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Ashton, contains 61,000 000 gallons at a level of 589 feet above O.D.

The townships of Ashton-under-Lyne and Hurst are supplied therefore partly with water from the Swineshaw Valley fed direct through the mains, and partly with water derived from the Greenfield Valley, but supplied through Knott Hill reservoir.

The population of Ashton and Hurst is approximately 51,000 persons, and the amount of water distributed for the year ending 25th March, 1925, to the Ashton area was 655,000,000 gallons. During this year, after the driest spell, there were still 152 days' supply for the whole of the district in the reservoirs, and the supply of water is quite sufficient for the present needs of the district.

The water is laid on constantly under pressure of about 80 lbs., and the whole of the population is supplied from the Waterworks directly to the houses by pipes with taps in the houses. There are no public stand pipes.

All the water supplied is efficiently filtered through mechanical filters, capable of dealing with 5,000,000 gallons

per day, situate immediately below the the reservoirs in the country. The water is supplied to the districts and houses direct from the filters to the houses in the case of Brushes supply, and direct from the filters into the service reservoir at Knott Hill in the case of water drawn from that reservoir.

The water is analysed once a month at the Public Health Laboratory of Manchester Corporation.

The water is of first class quality and soft. In its natural state it has a plumbo solvent action, but this is neutralised in the process of filtration, lime being added to counteract the solvency, with the result that the filtered water as supplied is of an alkaline nature, and has no action upon lead.

As regards pollution of the gathering grounds, there are only three inhabited houses on all the gathering grounds, and all the water supplied is collected in impounding reservoirs and after storage in same is passed through mechanical filters, with the result that the bacteriological examination is of a high standard.

The total area supplied by the Waterworks, which includes Ashton and Hurst areas, covers a total population of 141,332 persons and an area of 33,187 acres.

In supplying this district during the year ending 25th March, 1925, a total amount of 1,303,722,000 gallons were distributed for trade and domestic supply, which is an average per day of 3,575,000 gallons or equivalent to 25·3 gallons per head per day of population.

In addition to this 751,471,836 gallons of unfiltered water were passed into the rivers in respect to compensation.

The total run off from the gathering grounds for the above period was 3,600 000,000 gallons, while the average rainfall was 42 inches.

Rivers and Streams.

No pollution of the River Tame occurs in its course through our Borough. All the closets are on the water-

carriage system and any trade effluents are passed into the sewers.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated at Plantation Farm, in the Borough of Dukinfield, Cheshire, and are bounded on two sides by the River Tame, and on a third side by the L. & N.E. Rly. Co's. Canal. They were constructed in 1900 for treatment of the sewage in chemical precipitation tanks and double contact filters. The dry weather flow is two million gallons per day, the average daily flow being 2,634,000 gallons from the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne, the Urban District of Hurst, part of the Rural District of Limehurst, and the Ladysmith Barracks. Payment is received from the three latter sources. The population of the districts served is estimated at about 55,000.

The present method of treatment is by chemical precipitation (lime and aluminoferric) and filtration, part through percolating filters and part through double contact filters. The final treatment is in humus sludge settlement tanks.

The sewage enters the works through a 48" brick-lined concrete sewer carried over the river by a brick triple-span bridge. A sill set in the sewer on the Dukinfield side of the river is designed to take up to six times the D.W.F., the overflow discharging directly into the river. The sewage is received in one of two small detritus catch-pits at the discharge end of which are mechanically raked screens. The screens can be operated from the main driving shaft or by a short belt drive from an auxiliary 8 H P. National Gas Engine, or by hand. Precipitant is added to the screened sewage, which then flows through one of two sedimentation tanks of capacity 127,000 gallons each, and then through four precipitation tanks arranged in parallel and having a total capacity of about 1,000,000 gallons. A rectangular weir in the feed-channel to the sedimentation tanks takes up to three times the D.W.F.,

the overflow passing in two storm-water tanks of total capacity 500,000 gallons. The effluent from these tanks passes into the river without further treatment.

There are now in operation 14 first contact beds and 14 second contact beds, there being 6,600 cubic yards of medium in each set.

Four circular coke percolating filters, 7 ft. 0 ins. deep, were constructed in 1909, and two circular and two travelling distributors were installed in 1916, the medium being furnace slag 8 ft. 0 ins. deep. The circular distributors are 69 ft. dia., and the travelling distributors have a span of 70 ft., and a travel of 158 ft. All the machines were supplied by Messrs. Ames Crosta Sanitary Engineering Co. Ltd., of Nottingham. Nine additional circular sprinklers by the same makers were put into operation in 1925, their diameters being four 100 ft., one 98 ft., two 94 ft., one 65 ft., and one 45 ft., on furnace slag. Each is 7 ft. 6 ins. deep, and is supported on arched glazed tiles on a concrete floor. It is in two sizes, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and 3" to 5". The percolating filters now make a total of 29,000 cubic yards.

The effluents from the second contact beds and the percolating filters intermingle and flow through two humus tanks, which have a total capacity of 375,000 gallons. The effluent from these tanks flows into the river.

The sludge from the sedimentation, precipitation, and storm tanks gravitates by underground carrier into two Adam's sludge ejectors, each of 400 gallons capacity. In winter the sludge is lifted into a large iron tank over the lime-mixing house from where it gravitates into the mixer to receive milk of lime, and then into two rams. These force the sludge into the filter presses of which there are five by Manlove, Alliott & Co. In summer the sludge is pumped into lagoons and air-dried. The lagoons, seven in number, occupy an area of about 6,200 square yards, and are constructed of clinker with a surface layer 6" deep of fine washed ashes, earth banks, and under-drained.

The whole of the humus sludge gravitates to a separate ejector near to the humus tanks and is dealt with in eight lagoons having a total area of 2,710 square yards.

The partially dried sludge is disposed of by tipping on some low-lying land.

Power is derived from a suction gas plant burning coke and two Bates and Scholes Gas Engines, one 75 H.P., and the other 50 H.P. These are used to drive a Sentinel Compound Air-Compressor capable of compressing 250 cubic feet of free air per minute to 110 lbs., 10" and 6" Suinturbo centrifugal pumps, hydraulic accumulator, lime-mixer, and screens. An 8 H.P. National Gas Engine burning town's gas is used for driving the screen rakes when the large engines are not working. Town's gas is available for the large engines as an alternative to suction gas.

The district is drained by pipe sewers, varying from 9 to 18 inches in diameter, and egg-shaped brick sewers, 36 by 24 inches. The sewers are ventilated by man-holes and lamp holes. Every house is drained, generally by means of a yard drain. All house drains are disconnected from the sewers by syphon traps.

(a) **Closet Accommodation.**—There are no privies in the Borough. All dwelling houses are upon the water carriage system.

Fresh water closets number 3,517, and waste water closets 8,678.

Scavenging.

House refuse is temporarily disposed of in wooden ash bins and galvanised iron ash bins. There are no privy ashpits or pails. The staff comprises eighty men with the requisite horse-carts and motor waggons. Dry refuse is tipped at Gambrel Bank, which is a distance of one and a quarter miles from the Ashton Town Hall. It is situated on the boundary of the districts of Hurst and Limehurst. The area of this tip

is fifty acres. The method adopted after tipping is strictly in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, *re* "Tipping of Refuse." A small incinerator is installed at the Town's Yard for the purpose of destroying fish offal and animal refuse.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Full details of this are given in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, which follows.

Smoke Abatement.

The time allowed for the emission of black smoke is two minutes in the half-hour. Regular inspections are made by the Sanitary Inspector.

During the year a special series of observations was commenced by Mr. Harold Jackson, B.Sc., Science Master at the Secondary School, on the amount and nature of the atmospheric impurities deposited in the Borough. The following is his report:—

SUSPENDED ATMOSPHERIC IMPURITY.

Collecting Vessel on roof of Technical School.

		Deposited in British tons per square mile.					
From	Date.	To	Period.	Soluble Matter	Insoluble Matter	Total	
31/3/25	..	1/5/25	.. 30·75 days	.. 13·05	.. 77·87	..	90·92
1/5/25	..	28/5/25	.. 27 do.	.. 32·55	.. 58·75	..	91·30
28/5/25	..	1/7/25	.. 33 do.	.. 1·78	.. 48·49	..	50·27
1/7/25	..	1/8/25	.. 31 do.	.. 7·39	.. 103·1	..	110·49
1/8/25	..	1/10/25	.. 61 do.				
Results unreliable owing to repairs to roof.							
1/10/25	..	3/11/25	.. 33 do.	.. 38·96	.. 55·37	..	94·33
3/11/25	..	1/12/25	.. 28 do.	.. 4·91	.. 38·96	..	43·87
1/12/25	..	4/1/26	.. 34 do.	.. 11·61	.. 51·52	..	63·13
<hr/>				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
216·75 do.				.. 110·25	.. 431·06	..	544·31
At the same rate for 365				do.	.. 185·6	.. 731	.. 916·6

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws and Regulations.

1.—Common Lodging Houses.

Six are registered. One of these is a large well-built stone structure, with ample accommodation. The other five buildings are old and ill-adapted for the purpose.

2.—Houses let in Lodgings.

These are in six situations, almost the whole of them being in the area of Charlestown. They comply with the bye-laws and are kept in fairly good order.

3.—Slaughter-Houses.

These are 13 in number, situate in various parts of the town. They are in private ownership. There is no Public Abattoir.

4.—Cowsheds.

There are only two small milk farms in the Borough. The number of cattle kept is therefore almost negligible. The two farms are maintained in good order.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the schools is satisfactory. Information on these points is given in the Report of the School Medical Officer, published separately. It has not been found necessary to close any schools during the past five years for preventing the spread of infectious disease. For this purpose full use is made of exclusion from school of individual scholars.

Housing.

(I) General Housing Conditions in the Area.

1.—General Housing Conditions :—

The majority of the houses are workmen's dwellings. The number of rooms per house varies from four to six, comparatively few have bathrooms.

2.—(a) — There is a general shortage of houses.

(b) — Active measures have been and are now being taken to remedy this shortage, by the erection of new houses.

3. No important changes in population have taken place during the past five years, nor are any anticipated in the near future.

(II)—Overcrowding.

1.—There is a certain amount of overcrowding, but no census has been taken since 1921.

2.—Among the causes of this are the poverty of certain families, requiring them to share house accommodation with others ; also shortage of houses, compelling newly-married couples or new comers to take lodgings in houses already occupied.

3.—New houses are being continuously erected in accordance with the Scheme of the Housing Committee and also by private builders. As these become occupied it is hoped to lessen the overcrowding in others.

4.—It has not been possible in 1925 to take any drastic measures, since there was not the alternative accommodation necessary.

(III)—Fitness of Houses.

(a) — The houses in the Charlestown Area on the north-west side of the town form the oldest group. In the rest of the town the houses, with few exceptions, are in good condition.

(b) — The defects found in unfit houses are minor dilapidations, as leaking roofs, broken windows, &c.

(c) — Many of these defects are due to acts of neglect.

(2) — Detailed Statistics as to action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts are given in the tables of the form following.

(4)—Water supply is good and abundant. Closet accommodation is all on the water-carriage system. Refuse disposal is into wooden or metal receptacles, which are emptied at fixed intervals.

(IV) - Unhealthy Areas.

No special complaints have been received or representations made, in regard to unhealthy areas.

(V) Bye-Laws relating to Houses, &c.

1.—The existing bye-laws are working satisfactorily.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply:—

The milk supplied by cows kept within the Borough is very small in amount, the average number of cows kept being only 18. A considerable amount is brought in daily from the milk farms of the adjoining rural areas. A still larger quantity is brought by rail from farms in Cheshire, Staffordshire, &c.

1. No action has been necessary in regard to tuberculous milk and tuberculous cattle.

2. No licenses have been granted for the sale of milk under special designations.

3. No licenses have been refused or revoked for graded milk. Two licenses to sell milk in retail shops were refused because the premises were unsatisfactory. No bacteriological examinations were made of graded or other milk.

4. Special inspections have been made of shops in which open milk is sold in small quantities, in order to ensure the premises being suitable, and that undesirable articles are not sold alongside the milk.

Meat.

1. In the month of May, Mr. Hall, M.R.C.V.S., was appointed Inspector of Meat under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, his duties being to inspect at the time of slaughter and also to inspect all the meat sold in the borough.

Any carcase or meat condemned by him as unfit for human food, is taken to the destructor and burned. No arrangements have been made for the marking of meat. A series of Regulations for the protection, storage and handling of meat was adopted by the Health Committee on 29th April, 1925.

The following is a report of the meat condemned by Mr. Hall and sent to the destructor :—

TUBERCULOUS MEAT.

The carcases of three cows	1935 lbs.
Two forequarters of beef.....	280 lbs.
The carcases of two pigs	206 lbs.

MEAT NOT TUBERCULAR.

Beef	168 lbs.
One carcase of a small pig	134 lbs.

OTHER MEATS.

Tinned Tongue	12 lbs.
Corned Beef	12 lbs.
Tinned Mutton	6 lbs.
Tinned Salmon	7 lbs.
Tinned Lobster.....	3 lbs.
Fish	14 lbs.
Rabbits	58.

2. The administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores and vehicles was duly carried out, and was found to be satisfactory.

3. There are no public slaughter-houses.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered.....	14	11	11
Licensed	2	2	2
	—	—	—
Total	16	13	13

(c)—Other Foods.

Foods such as meat pies, and potted meats, are inspected by the Chief Inspector. No special fault has been found during the year.

In the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation Act of 1924 power was obtained to make bye-laws for the purpose of promoting sanitary and cleanly conditions in the manufacture of such foods. Power was also obtained in the same Act to control the manufacture, control and vending of ice-cream, Bakehouses, and other premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored or exposed for sale, have been inspected and found satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.

	In 1920.	In 1925.
Registered.....	21	32

(d) No cases of food poisoning have been found during the year.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The following table shows the samples analysed during the year, and percentage of adulteration :—

ARTICLE	Number Analysed.	Number Adulterated.	Percentage of Adulteration.
Milks	39	nil	nil
Whiskies	16	§7	43·7
Condensed Milks.....	9	nil	nil
Butters.....	6	nil	nil
Cheshire Cheese	6	nil	nil
Lards	6	nil	nil
Coffees	6	nil	nil
Jams	5	nil	nil
Sponge Cakes	5	1	20·0
Preserved Creams	5	nil	nil
Camphorated Oils	4	nil	nil
Peppers	4	nil	nil

ARTICLE.	Number Analysed.	Number Adulterated.	Percentage of Adulteration.
Glycerines	4	nil	nil
Pearl Barleys	3	nil	nil
Powdered Cinnamon	3	nil	nil
Malt Vinegars	3	nil	nil
Turpentine	3	nil	nil
Olive Oil	3	nil	nil
Ground Ginger	3	nil	nil
Mustard	3	nil	nil
Dried Milk	2	nil	nil
*Creams	2	2	100·0
Rum and Coffee	1	nil	nil
Lemon Cheese.....	1	nil	nil
	<hr/> 142	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 7·0

*Submitted under the Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912.

†Submitted under the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923.

§Contravened Section 10 of the Licensing Act, 1921.

Of the sixteen samples of whisky, twelve were purchased informal, four were found to be adulterated. Upon formal samples being taken they were again found to contravene the Act. The vendors were proceeded against and fines amounting to £16 5s. 0d. were imposed.

Two creams were sold contrary to the Regulations. The vendors were warned.

One sponge cake (jam sandwich type) contained preservative. The vendor was cautioned.

(e)—Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

Samples of 39 milks and 7 creams were submitted for analysis and reported free from preservatives and colouring matter, and generally satisfactory in quality.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases generally :—

The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the period since 1920 was reviewed under the heading "Causes of Sickness."

Chicken-pox in 1925 prevailed extensively in Cockbrook and its neighbourhood during the months of September and October; 55 cases were notified by the Head Mistress of the Cockbrook School, the School Attendance Officer, or the medical men in attendance. Each of these cases I visited and examined in their own homes. The disease was usually mild in type and caused no complications. Two cases in adults were of a severe nature and caused anxiety with respect to the diagnosis. In each of these cases I was called in consultation by the Doctor in attendance.

Chicken pox also prevailed extensively in the west end of the Borough during the months of January, February, March, and April. Each case was visited and examined by me. This precaution was taken owing to the fact that an epidemic of Smallpox occurred in 1924 and the early part of 1925.

Smallpox.

An epidemic of Smallpox terminated in our town in the early weeks of 1925, after an outbreak which had lasted for several months. A full and detailed account of its occurrence was given in my report for 1924.

Diphtheria.

Anti-toxin is supplied free of cost to medical men on application. The supply is kept at the Central Police Station, and is available at any time of the day and night. The amount used in 1925 was 182,000 units.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Enquiry was made into eight cases which had been notified in Ashton during the past ten years, the results were as follows :—

Dead	4
Recovered completely.....	1
Fæble-minded	1
Suffering from fits	1
Suffering from emotional condition	1

Of diseases notifiable under the Regulations of 7th January, 1919, Pneumonia, 99 cases were notified. Immediately upon receipt of each of these, information is sent to the District Nursing Association, and the case is thereupon visited and attended by their Nurses.

In recognition of this work a grant of £50 per annum is made to the Nursing Association.

Arrangements have been made with the Pathological Department of the District Infirmary for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens. During the year the following examinations have been so made :—

Swabs for Diphtheria	21
Widal Tests for Blood.....	3

No use has been made of the Schick and Diets Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively.

No primary or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.

Intimations of these are obtained from the Headmasters and School Attendance Officers. These prove valuable, as in the case of Chickenpox and Measles, and form the basis for visiting by our Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Mortality from Influenza :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Deaths ...	8	16	32	14	15

Disinfection of premises is carried out by fumigation with Formalin or Sulphur. The number so fumigated in 1925 was 537.

Articles which have been exposed to infection are cleansed by the Steam Disinfector at the Town's Yard. This is a modern Delepine-Jones machine.

Attached to the disinfecting chamber is a bath, supplied with ample hot water, with separate waiting room and discharge room. This is for the cleansing of verminous persons. It has also proved useful for the treatment of persons suffering from Scabies.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis during the Year 1925 :—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	12	12	0
Scarlet Fever	110	56	0
Diphtheria	19	6	4
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	3	1	0
Puerperal Fever	5	1	1
Pneumonia	99	3	55
Other diseases generally notifiable. (Specify disease)..	..	..	..
Other diseases notifiable locally. (Specify disease)			
Chicken-pox	230	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1925.

Age—Periods.	New Cases.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.								
0 .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
1 .. ..	..	1	5	2	1	..	..	3
5 .. ..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	1
10 .. ..	..	1	6	3	1	..	2	..
15	1	4	2	3	1	4	2	..
20	4	5	..	..	2	4	1	..
25	4	5	3	4	3	4	..	1
35	6	3	..	..	8	2	..	1
45	3	3	1	1	6	3	1	..
55	4	3	..	1	1	2	2	..
65 and upwards	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Totals ..	23	26	18	18	24	19	8	6

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925:—

It has not been necessary to take any action under these Regulations, with regard to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62:—

No action has been taken.

Tuberculosis Scheme:—

This is administered by the County Authority. The Dispensary is situated in Warrington Street.

Dr. Stewart, Consultant Tuberculosis Officer, kindly contributes the following account of work done for Ashton patients:—

"During the year, seventy-nine notifications of patients suffering from Tuberculosis were received. Of these, forty-seven were notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, twenty-seven from non-pulmonary Tuberculosis, and there were five combined cases.

Of the forty-seven pulmonary cases, twenty-seven were found to have tubercle bacilli in their sputum, ten had negative sputum, six had no expectoration, in three cases the sputum was not examined, and one case was in Union Hospital when notified.

In the five combined cases, two were found to have tubercle bacilli in the sputum, two had no expectoration, and in one case the sputum was not examined.

The twenty-seven non-pulmonary cases are classified as follows :

Glands..... 9	Elbow 1	Abdomen..... 7
Spine 1	Meninges..... 3	Knee 2
Skin..... 2	Bladder 1	Abdomen & Renal 1

Fifteen of the notified cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis died during the year. Six of the non-pulmonary cases died during the year, including the three cases of Meningitis.

Sixty-seven of the seventy-nine cases applied for treatment. In the remaining twelve cases, no application was made for various reasons, *e.g.* : Died immediately after notification (5) ; diagnosis not confirmed after examination (2) ; refused to attend (1) ; in Union Hospital when notified (1) ; removed immediately after notification (1) ; making own arrangements for treatment (1) ; and no settled address (1).

Of the patients who applied for treatment, seventeen were sent to Sanatoria, fourteen to Pulmonary Hospital for advanced cases, ten to General Hospital for surgical treatment, etc., and two were granted treatment at the Skin Hospital. The remaining twenty-four cases were under Dispensary Supervision only.

In addition to the notified cases, a large number of patients are sent to the Dispensary by their doctors for examination and diagnosis. During the year, 1925, one-hundred-and-seventy-one new cases were sent for diagnosis by the Doctors, School Medical Officers, etc. The number of re-attendances of old patients at the Dispensary for supervision and arrangements for treatment, was 1,424.

Special enquiries are made as to the health of other inmates of the houses where there are patients suffering from definite Tuberculosis, and forty-six of these contacts were examined during the year.

In supervision and visiting, special attention is paid to the open cases, *i.e.*, cases where tubercle bacilli are present or have been found in the sputum. On the 1st January, 1925, there were one-hundred-and-twelve such cases known to be living in the Borough. On the 31st December, 1925, there were one-hundred-and-seven positive cases living. These figures include quiescent and arrested cases.

The number of positive cases living at 31st December, 1925, who had tubercle bacilli in the sputum during 1925, was forty-nine. The other fifty-eight cases have had either negative sputum or no sputum.

Thirty-eight of the positive cases died during the year. Six positive cases removed from the district during the year.

The condition as to isolation at home of the positive cases was as follows :—

Separate bedroom	85
Separate bed	51
Unable to have separate bed	15

Fifty-two of the positive cases were in institution for treatment or isolation at some time during the year.

Twenty-nine housing defects were reported during the year, and of these, six have been remedied by the end of the year.

Two-hundred-and-eighty-four specimens of sputum, urine, etc., from Ashton-under-Lyne were examined at the Ashton Laboratory during the year. Of these, fifty-six were positive, and two hundred-and-twenty-eight were negative.

During the twelve months, seventy-one patients were discharged from institutions as follows :

From Sanatoria	30
Pulmonary Hospitals for advanced cases	23
General Hospital for treatment of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	13
Orthopaedic Hospital	1
Sanatoria for treatment of non-pulmonary disease ..	1
Manchester Skin Hospital	1
Observation Hospital	2

The results on discharge were as follows :—

Quiescent or arrested	10
Improved	32
Is q.	8
Worse	8
Died	11
Diagnosis confirmed	2

During the year 1925, there were six deaths from Tuberculosis where no notification of the disease was received at any time. In three cases the disease was pulmonary, in two cases non-pulmonary, and there was one combined case (lungs and spine).

J. L. STEWART."

(e) *Venereal Diseases Clinic.* This is held at the District Infirmary and is administered by the County.

Dr. Robertson, Medical Officer, kindly contributes the following report of work done during the year :

113 new cases were admitted this year, 21 of whom were found to be suffering from non-venereal conditions.

3,143 attendances were made for consultation and treatment, and the number of "in-patient days" were 78.

674 specimens of pathological material were examined from the Clinic and private practitioners.

The number of cases treated this year show a slight decrease on the previous year, but it is felt that the Clinic could be of much greater service if persons suspicious of infection would attend immediately for advice or treatment. Early treatment means an early cure.

Miss Gorman, M.B., is in charge of the Female Clinic and trained nurses are always in attendance.

102 patients remained under treatment at the end of the year,

J. R. ROBERTSON."

Maternity and Child Welfare.

With regard to the health of the mothers, the Health Visitors visit the homes to offer advice and to enquire into the arrangements made for the confinement. An ante-natal class was formed in the autumn in each district, that for the east end being held on Monday afternoons in Enville House, and for the west end on Friday afternoons in Richmond House. Any mother desirous of consulting the doctor may see him on the ordinary consultation days at either of the Welfare Centres.

Arrangements have been made with the Corporation whereby expectant mothers may be confined at the Lake Hospital, fees to be paid in part by the Corporation and the remainder by the mother according to her financial position.

Difficult confinements occurring in the patient's own home may be transferred to the District Infirmary.

All notified births are visited by the Health Visitors as soon as possible after the expiration of ten days, and onwards

at varying periods up to school age. Mothers are invited to attend at either of the Child Welfare Centres, Enville House being open on Tuesday afternoons, and Richmond House on Monday mornings. The babies are weighed and are required to be seen by the doctor at least once a month.

Cases of illness occurring amongst either the mothers or children are visited and advised to consult their own doctors unless they have previously done so. A District Nurse attends daily where her services are necessary. Should circumstances so arise as to make it advisable, patients may be removed to the District Infirmary or the Lake Hospital. All still-births and infant deaths are enquired into and reported on by the Health Visitors.

Unmarried mothers are visited, advised and assisted as may be deemed necessary for the rearing of their children, wherever possible the mother herself remaining in charge of her child.

Dried milks (Glaxo and Cow and Gate) are on sale at the Welfare Centres for mothers who attend. Special forms of application for a free supply of milk are issued for the benefit of necessitous cases, who, if found to be below a special scale, are allowed dried milk temporarily free of charge.

Massage Clinics for the treatment of muscular and other deficiencies are held in each Centre twice weekly. A fully qualified Massense attends, and the children are given a cupful of hot milk immediately after treatment. Each child is expected to receive cod liver oil at home.

No. of Sessions.	No. of Children Treated.	Attendances made.
256	74	1,778

The following gives the ages of the children :—

1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.	4th year.	5th year.
2	25	27	12	8

Each of these children required massage on general grounds to improve their nutritive and muscular development.

Artificial sunlight has been installed at the District Infirmary and the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Warrington Street, where advanced cases of Rickets and Malnutrition receive treatment.

A number of voluntary workers assist at the two Welfare Centres, chiefly in connection with classes for tuition in housewifery, dressmaking, &c. These classes are held at Enville House on Wednesday afternoons, and at Richmond House on Thursday afternoons.

On entering school, each child's record card kept by the Health Visitor also the medical card from the Welfare Centre, are forwarded to the school authorities for future reference.

The Medical Officer of Health who attends the consultations at the Centres is also the School Medical Officer.

Cases of Measles, Whooping-Cough, and epidemic Diarrhœa are visited in their homes and advice given with regard to their treatment, the mothers being called upon to consult their own doctor where it appears necessary, if they have not already done so. Special instructions are given concerning the isolation of the patient.

Children suffering from Ophthalmia Neonatorum are visited daily by the Health Visitor, who instructs the mother in the treatment and carrying out of the doctor's orders, until a complete cure has been effected.

CASES OF OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Treated		Vision.	Vision	Total	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital.	Unimpaired.	Impaired.	Blindness.	
4	4	0	4	0	0	0

Notifications of Puerperal Fever	5
Deaths from do.	1
Deaths from Measles	6
Deaths from Whooping Cough	7
Deaths from Epidemic Diarrhœa	15
Notifications of Polomyelitis.....	0

In cases of the above diseases, visits are made by the Health Visitors and School Nurses, to advise the parents. In cases of epidemic Diarrhœa and Measles with complications, where home conditions are unsuitable, I consider it would be advantageous to remove the patients to Hospital.

Health Week.

A Health Week was held in the month of February, and with this was combined a Baby Week. The following programme was carried out:—

EACH DAY.

2-30 to 7-30—Health Exhibition in Town Hall.

p.m. Health Films at Local Picture Houses.

Infant Welfare Centres at Enville House and Richmond House open daily for inspection.

School Clinic, Water Street, open daily for inspection.

3 to 4 p.m.—Co-operative Society's Bakery, Katharine Street, open for inspection.

Tuesday, 3rd February.

2-30 — 3-30—District Infirmary open for inspection.

3 p.m.—Cookery Demonstration, in Town Hall.

7 p.m.—Demonstration of Healthy Exercises by School Children, arranged by Miss Blackstock, in the Town Hall.

7-30 p.m.—Popular Lecture in the Town Hall.

Subject: Parent and Child.

Lecturer: Dr. D. Ewart.

Chairman: His Worship the Mayor.

Wednesday, 4th February.

3 p.m.—Cookery Demonstration, in the Town Hall.

7 p.m.—Healthy Exercises Demonstration.

7-30 p.m.—Popular Lantern Lecture.

Subject : Infant Welfare Work.

Lecturer : Dr. Catherine Chisholm.

Chairwoman : Mrs. Councillor Wild.

Thursday, 5th February.

2-30 — 3-30—District Infirmary open for inspection.

3 p.m.—Cookery Demonstration, in Town Hall.

7-30 p.m.—Popular Lecture in Town Hall.

Subject : Tonsils, Adenoids and Running Ears.

Lecturer : Dr. Leighton.

Chairman : Councillor Sheard.

Friday, 6th February.

3 p.m.—Cookery Demonstration, in the Town Hall

7 p.m.—Healthy Exercises Demonstration.

7-30 p.m.—Popular Lantern Lecture.

Subject : Health and Happiness.

Lecturer : Miss Tipper.

Chairman : Alderman Allen Shaw.

In view of the fact that this was the first occasion on which Health Week had been observed in the Borough, attendance at the various events was satisfactory, and considerable interest was awakened on the question of the Public Health. Particularly successful were the demonstrations and talks given to school children each morning between 10 and 12. These were arranged in co-operation with the Education Committee.

A very large amount of time and thought was given in the carrying out of all arrangements by the voluntary lady helpers of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres for Hurst and Ashton.

TOWN HALL CHAMBERS,

To the Chairman and Members
of the Health Committee.

I beg respectfully to submit to you the following as a summary of the work done by this department, also the tables of vital statistics for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

Number of Nuisances reported and found	478
„ „ abated	451
Statutory Notices served.....	49
Preliminary Notices and Letters served with respect to Nuisances	257
Verbal Notices given	201
Notices sent <i>re</i> infectious diseases	131
Letters and circulars served (<i>re</i> other matters)	762
Number of cases removed to Infectious Hospital	79
„ houses disinfected	537
„ articles removed and disinfected	1669
„ library books disinfected.....	73
„ articles removed and destroyed.....	268
„ visits to houses <i>re</i> infectious diseases	724
„ „ premises <i>re</i> defective drainage, etc....	198
„ „ overcrowded, dirty, damp and in- sanitary premises.....	66
„ „ premises <i>re</i> defective and made up W.C's and W.W.C's, etc...	1122
„ „ „ slop sinks, waste and soil pipes	251

Number of visits to premises, roofs, troughing and down spouts	211
„ „ „ floors, ceilings and walls...	88
„ „ „ re nuisances from keeping of pigeons, poultry, etc.	9
„ „ single and back to back houses	43
„ „ insanitary yards, and unpaved backs and passages.....	38
„ „ offensive accumulations, and insani- tary manure pits, etc	9
„ „ lodging-houses, furnished rooms and dwelling vans	212
„ „ slaughter-houses and bakehouses ...	393
„ „ cowsheds, milkshops, refreshment houses and ice cream makers.....	115
„ „ Factory and Workshops re Factory and Workshop Act	229
„ „ Offensive Trades	31
„ „ premises where work is in progress and for the purpose of ascertaining if notices have been complied with	238
Other miscellaneous visits and inspections to nuisances not specified above	36
Total number of houses, premises, etc., visited and inspected	4053
Houses and premises inspected in which no nuisance was found.....	40
Number of single houses converted into double ones.....	0
„ premises limewashed and cleansed	43
„ drains tested	68
Number of smoke observations taken	109
Number of street gullies found blocked and reported to cleansing foreman	92
Number of insanitary and overloaded ashtubs reported to cleansing foreman	317
Defective pavement and flagging reported to Borough Surveyor	4
Covered-in yards reported to Borough Surveyor.....	5
Dangerous buildings reported to „	1

Burst water pipes reported to Water Engineer	72
Samples taken under Sale of Food and Drugs Act.....	142
Disinfectants distributed (gallons).....	342
" " (cwts.)	66
Lime distributed (7 lb bags)	105

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM C. MORRIS, M.I.H.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SMOKE NUISANCE.

During the year 109 observations have been taken, each of 30 minutes duration, and the average emission of smoke emitted from the chimneys observed has been as follows, viz.:

Dense smoke, 2 minutes, 22 seconds ; moderate, 8 minutes, 40 seconds ; faint, 10 minutes, 19 seconds ; no smoke, 8 minutes, 57 seconds ; an equivalent to dense smoke of 8 minutes, 19 seconds.

Ten firms exceeded the time allowed for the emission of black smoke, a copy of the observation was sent to each of the offenders, and a notice served for abatement.

Three firms were proceeded against, fines amounting to £7 17s. 6d. were imposed, and orders issued to abate the nuisance.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Considerable attention was given during the year to the administration of the Factories and Workshops Acts, so far as the provisions of that Act affects the Health Department.

Several of the Factories and Workshops were visited as the result of a notice from H.M. Inspector.

Linewashing, and the general cleanliness of the workshops have been better attended to, as fewer complaints were received.

No cases of overcrowding were reported.

Under Section 107 of the Factory and Workshops Act, which refers to outworkers, only two lists were sent in. The premises of the outworkers were found to be in a satisfactory condition and free from infectious disease.

In connection with this work, no legal proceedings were taken, the improvements and defects were completed without the necessity, by verbal and informal notices.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) Total - - - - - 111

(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme 78

1. *Unfit dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) - - - 479

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 - - - 227

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation - - - 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation - - - 0

2. *Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers - - - 149

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-	-	-	-	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—					
(a) by owners	-	-	-	-	11
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	-	-	-	-	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	-	-	-	-	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	-	-	-	233
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—				
(a) by owners	-	-	-	219
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	-	-	-	0

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit - - - 0
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 0
- Number of dwelling-houses converted by owners to workshops, etc..... 0

Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria.

The following tables show the number of rooms in the houses affected, cases notified, removed to Hospital, treated at home, also the number of occupants and rate of attack.

SMALLPOX.

No. of Rooms in the houses affected	4	5	6	Total
Cases notified	10	1	1	12
Cases removed to Hospital.....	10	1	1	12
Cases treated at Home	—	—	—	—
No. of occupants at all ages	40	4	8	52
Attack Rate per 1,000.....	0·91	0·09	0·18	1·18

No deaths were recorded.

No cases of overcrowding were found to exist in any of the houses.

SCARLET FEVER.

No. of rooms in the houses affected	2	4	5	6	7	Over 7 Rooms	Totals.
Cases notified ..	3	71	22	9	1	4	110
Cases removed to Hospital....	3	39	6	6	0	2	56
Cases treated at Home	0	32	16	3	1	2	54
No. of occupants at all ages	14	351	119	53	5	19	561
Attack Rate per 1,000	0.31	7.99	2.71	1.20	0.11	0.43	12.76

No deaths were recorded.

Three cases of overcrowding were found to exist. Two occurred in houses with two rooms and one with four rooms.

DIPHTHERIA.

No. of rooms in houses affected	2	4	5	6	Over 7 rooms	Totals.
Cases notified	1	15	1	1	1	19
Cases removed to Hospital.....	1	4	0	0	1	6
Cases treated at home...		11	1	1	0	13
No. of Occupants at all ages	4	73	4	5	6	92
Attack Rate per 1,000...	0.09	1.66	0.09	0.11	0.13	2.09

Four deaths occurred, three at four years and one at five years. Death Rate 0.09. Only one case of overcrowding was found to exist.

A RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS AND
DEATH RATE,
From the Principal Zymotic Diseases ; also Phthisis and
Respiratory Diseases, from 1916 to 1925 inclusive..

NAMES OF DISEASES	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Enteric	7	2	...	1	4	2	2	...	...	...
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Measles	2	15	8	1	14	...	18	...	11	6
Scarlet Fever	1	...	1	1	3	1	2	2	3	...
Whooping Cough...	15	1	13	...	4	4	3	17	...	7
Diphtheria includ'g										
Membranous Croup	3	5	5	5	3	4	2	1	1	4
Typhus Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	1	...	1	3	4	1	5	1	1
Diarrhœa {	11	10	9	12	12	16	5	12	8	15
Dysentery {										
Erysipelas	1	...	2	1	1	...	2	...	...	2
Chicken Pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Leth..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Total Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.	40	34	38	22	44	31	35	37	29	36
Death Rate from Zymotic Diseases.	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8
Deaths—Phthisis...	64	50	66	42	38	40	43	37	30	43
Rate	1.6	1.2	1.6	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.9
Deaths from Res- piratory Diseases	141	127	187	189	169	150	140	120	102	144
Rate	3.5	3.3	4.7	4.3	3.7	3.4	3.2	2.7	2.3	3.2
Deaths from other Causes	381	430	507	501	400	443	384	439	422	428
Rate	9.5	11.0	12.9	11.5	8.9	9.9	8.7	9.9	9.6	9.8
Total Deaths from all causes	626	641	798	754	651	664	602	633	583	649
General Death Rate from all causes...	15.6	16.3	20.1	17.2	14.3	15.0	13.5	14.3	13.2	14.7

NUMBER OF DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTHLY IN WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS,

From January 1st to December 31st, 1925.

Month.	St Peter's Ward.	Portland Place Ward.	Market Ward.	St. Michael's Ward.	Union Workhouse.	District Infirmary.	Total.
January	31	17	19	4	0	0	71
February	25	17	10	3	0	0	55
March	23	36	11	3	0	0	73
April	33	32	14	4	0	0	83
May	20	15	17	5	0	0	60
June	18	7	27	5	0	0	57
July	10	5	35	5	0	0	55
August	5	3	4	2	0	0	14
September	5	3	7	2	0	1	18
October	4	4	12	3	2	0	25
November	10	5	18	6	0	0	39
December	10	3	8	9	0	1	31
Total	194	150	182	51	2	2	581

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1925 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Estimated Population	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.		
		Un-corrected Number.	Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate.*	of Non-residents not registered in the district.	Residents registered in the district.	Under 1 year of age.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	At all Ages.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13
1920....	45437	1152	1152	25.3	809	17.8	192	34	138	119.7	651 14.3
1921....	44200	990	990	22.3	920	21.2	293	37	104	105.0	664 15.0
1922....	44360	909	873	19.6	843	19.0	267	26	80	91.6	602 13.5
1923....	44130	815	785	17.7	758	17.1	161	36	64	81.5	633 14.3
1924....	44010	852	776	17.6	870	19.7	314	27	60	77.0	583 13.2
1925....	43910	847	748	17.0	917	21.5	334	36	69	92.0	649 14.7

* Rates in columns 5, 7 and 13 are calculated per 1000 of the estimated gross population.
 Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1345. Total population of all ages, 44200. At census of 1921.
 Number of inhabited houses, 10,486 Average number of persons per house, 4.28.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age during the Year ending 31st December, 1925.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES	Certified.....	11	1	1	4	17	18	16	10	8	69
	Uncertified .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Smallpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	2
	Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diphtheria and ( )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Croup )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Whooping Cough )	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
	Diarrhoea .....	..	..	..	1	1	4	3	3	..	11
	Enteritis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
	Tuberculous ( )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Meningitis )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Abdominal ( )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Tuberculosis (b) )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Tuberculous )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diseases ( )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Congenital ( )	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
	Malformations (c) )	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
	Premature Birth)	5	1	..	..	6	..	1	..	..	7
	Atrophy, Debility )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	and Marasmus ()	3	..	..	1	4	4	1	..	1	10
	Atelectasis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Injury at Birth....	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
	Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Syphilis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Meningitis not ( )	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
	Tuberculous )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Convulsions .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Gastritis .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
	Laryngitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bronchitis .....	..	..	1	1	2	5	3	1	1	12
	Pneumonia, (all )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	forms)	1	..	..	..	1	..	3	3	4	11
	Suffocation, ( )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	overlying )	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
	Other Causes.....	1	..	..	1	2	1	2	2	..	7
Total.....		11	1	1	4	17	18	16	10	8	69

Nett Births in the ^{Year} ~~month~~ - legitimate, 717; illegitimate Infants, 31.
 „ Deaths „ „ 62. „ „ 7.

SUMMARY OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND RATES IN WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, DURING THE YEAR 1925.

WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS		Deaths & Rate under 5 years		Deaths & Rate under 1 year		Zymotic Deaths and Rate	
	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
St. Peter's	217	14.4	144	10.0	27	1.8	20	92.1	6	0.4
Portland Place.....	177	21.0	101	12.0	24	2.8	13	73.4	11	1.3
Market.....	223	15.5	158	10.9	28	1.9	19	85.5	7	0.4
St. Michael's.....	83	12.9	81	12.6	14	2.1	8	96.3	1	0.1
Ward Totals and Average.....	700	15.9	484	11.3	93	2.1	60	86.3	25	0.5
Workhouse.....	36	...	91	...	4	...	3	...	2	...
Infirmary.....	12	...	74	...	8	...	4	...	1	...
Borough Hospital	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...
Totals and Rate for Borough.....	748	17.0	649	14.7	105	2.4	67	92.0	28	0.6
Corresponding period last year ...	776	17.6	583	13.2	94	2.1	60	77.0	29	0.6

The Rate of Infant Mortality is measured by the proportion of Deaths under One Year to Births.

BIRTHS.	DEATHS.
Males.....385	Males.....332
Females...363	Females...317
Increase of Population... 99	Illegitimate Births...31
	Inquests, 33
	748
	649

(3) — NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. — CASES NOTIFIED.															Hospital.		
DISEASE.	Total Cases at all Ages.	YEARS.													Total Deaths.	Total cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
		YEARS.															
		Under 1	1—22	23—33	34—44	45—55	56—65	65 and over	15	16—20	21—25	26—35	36—45	46—55				56 and over
Smallpox	12	..	1	1	..	1	4	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	12	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ..	19	..	3	2	..	1	9	2	2	..	..	3	..	..	6	1
Erysipelas	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	..	3	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	110	..	2	7	8	14	52	19	3	..	..	..	..	..	56	..
Enteric Fever including Paratyphoid ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Puerperal Fever	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polio-myelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trench Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	94	10	7	3	4	4	15	5	4	14	11	13	4	55	3	..	
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	49	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	5	18	9	13	2	43	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	36	1	4	2	1	..	4	9	5	7	..	3	..	14	..	..
Measles and German Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..
Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..
Diarrhoea, &c., (under 2 years) .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	..
Chicken Pox	230	12	18	18	28	51	94	7	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Any other diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	581	27	35	34	41	70	176	50	23	58	24	33	10	148	79	1	

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.										St. Peter's Ward.		Portland Ward.		Market Ward.		Michael's Ward.		Work- house		Infirmary		Borough Hospital.		Totals.		Total Deaths of "Non- Residents" in Institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Under 5	Above 5	Under 5	Above 5	Under 5	Above 5	Under 5	Above 5	Under 5	Above 5	Under 5	Above 5	Under 5	Above 5	Males.	Females.		
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10																	11	
ALL CAUSES	Certified	649	69	19	17	24	36	80	192	212	27	117	24	77	28	130	14	67	4	87	8	66	0	0	332	317	334	
	Uncertified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	
Enteric Fever .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles		6	2	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..
Scarlet Fever .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Whooping Cough		7	2	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	..
Diphtheria		4	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..
Influenza		15	..	..	..	1	1	..	4	9	..	3	..	3	..	4	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	4	11	..
Encephalitis Lethargica		1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Meningococcal Meningitis .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of respiratory system		43	..	..	1	1	11	17	12	1	..	10	..	11	..	17	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	24	19	14
Other Tuberculous Diseases		14	..	..	3	3	3	2	3	..	..	5	..	2	1	1	2	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	6	8	6
Cancer, Malignant Disease		56	..	..	..	..	..	8	27	21	..	11	..	6	..	13	..	11	..	9	..	6	..	..	30	26	37
Rheumatic Fever		3	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..
Diabetes		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Cerebral Hemorrhage, &c.		32	..	..	..	..	..	2	13	17	..	9	..	8	..	3	..	5	..	7	..	..	..	..	15	17	19
Heart Disease ..		112	..	..	..	1	4	7	39	61	..	15	..	11	..	26	..	13	..	30	..	17	..	..	43	69	35
Arterio-Sclerosis		28	..	..	..	1	3	16	8	..	..	8	..	6	..	3	..	4	..	1	..	6	..	..	20	8	5
Bronchitis		78	12	..	1	..	..	4	19	42	7	12	3	6	4	12	1	13	..	17	..	3	..	..	41	37	15
Pneumonia (all forms)		55	11	6	2	1	2	15	11	7	5	5	5	2	6	16	1	4	1	7	..	3	..	..	30	25	17
Other Respiratory Diseases		11	..	..	2	1	2	2	3	1	..	4	..	3	..	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	6	5	..
Ulcer of Stomach or Duo-derum		9	..	..	..	1	3	2	2	1	..	6	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	6	3	1
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)		15	11	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	..	6	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	10	5	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	8
Cirrhosis of Liver .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis		17	..	..	..	3	1	6	5	2	..	5	..	3	..	1	..	3	..	1	..	4	..	..	11	6	8
Puerperal Sepsis		1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2
Other Accidents and Diseases of		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pregnancy and Parturition ..		1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth		21	20	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	3	..	6	..	4	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	15	6	5
Suicide		5	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	2
Other Deaths from violence		12	1	..	..	1	1	3	4	2	1	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	7	5	18
Other Defined Diseases		100	9	4	4	6	5	6	29	37	3	17	4	8	2	26	3	7	1	10	3	16	..	..	48	52	133
Causes ill-defined or unknown		1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Special Causes (included above) .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polioencephalitis .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total		649	69	19	17	24	36	80	192	212	27	117	24	77	28	130	14	67	4	87	8	66	0	0	332	317	334	
BIRTHS		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
		116	101	86	91	108	115	48	35	21	15	6	6	0	0	385	363	748										

Included in the above are 36 deaths of residents not registered in the district which have been allocated to the diseases, wards and sex to which they belong.

